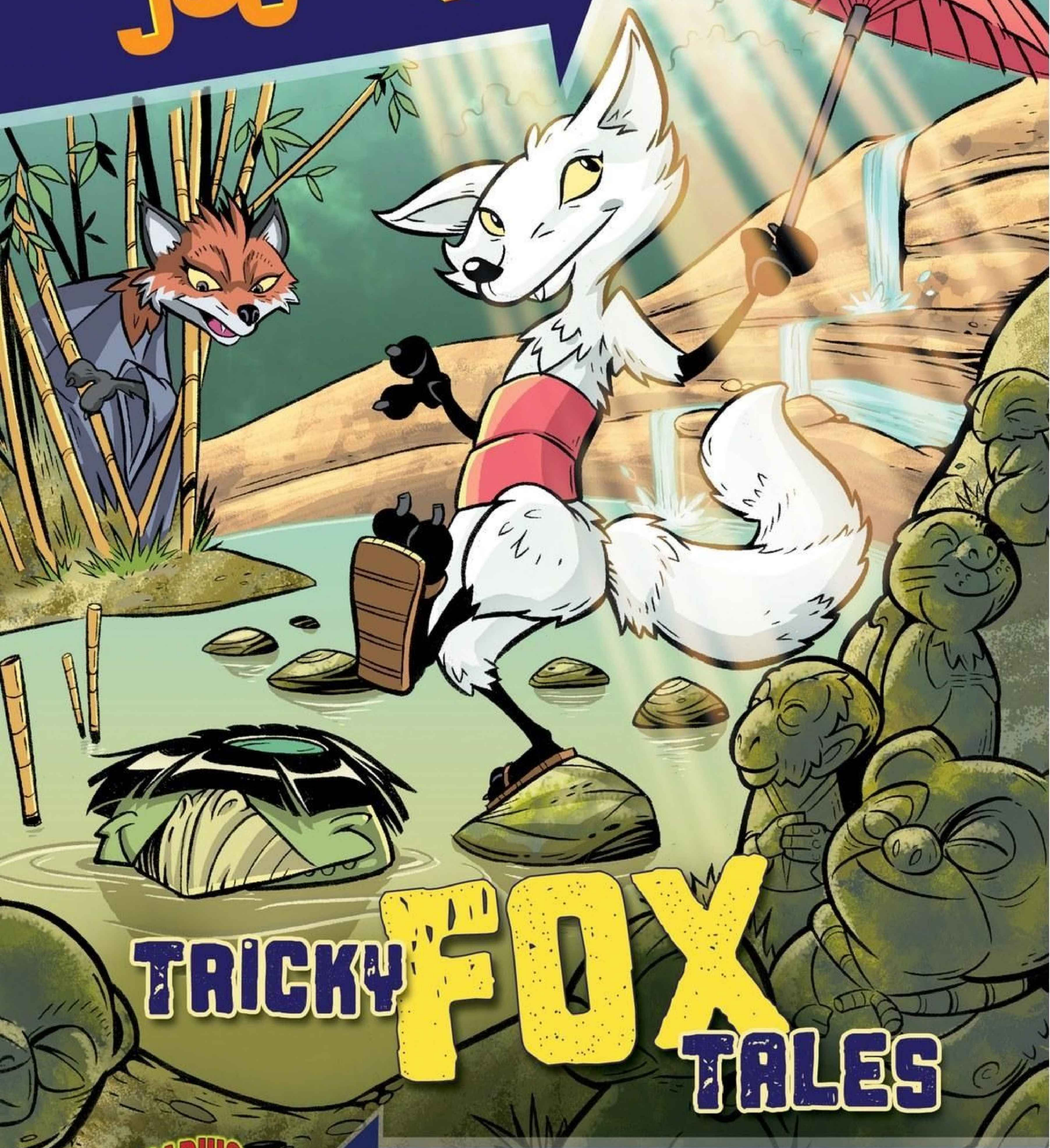


TRICKY JOURNEYS™

#3

Six journeys to follow!
Which will YOU take?



TRICKY FOX TALES

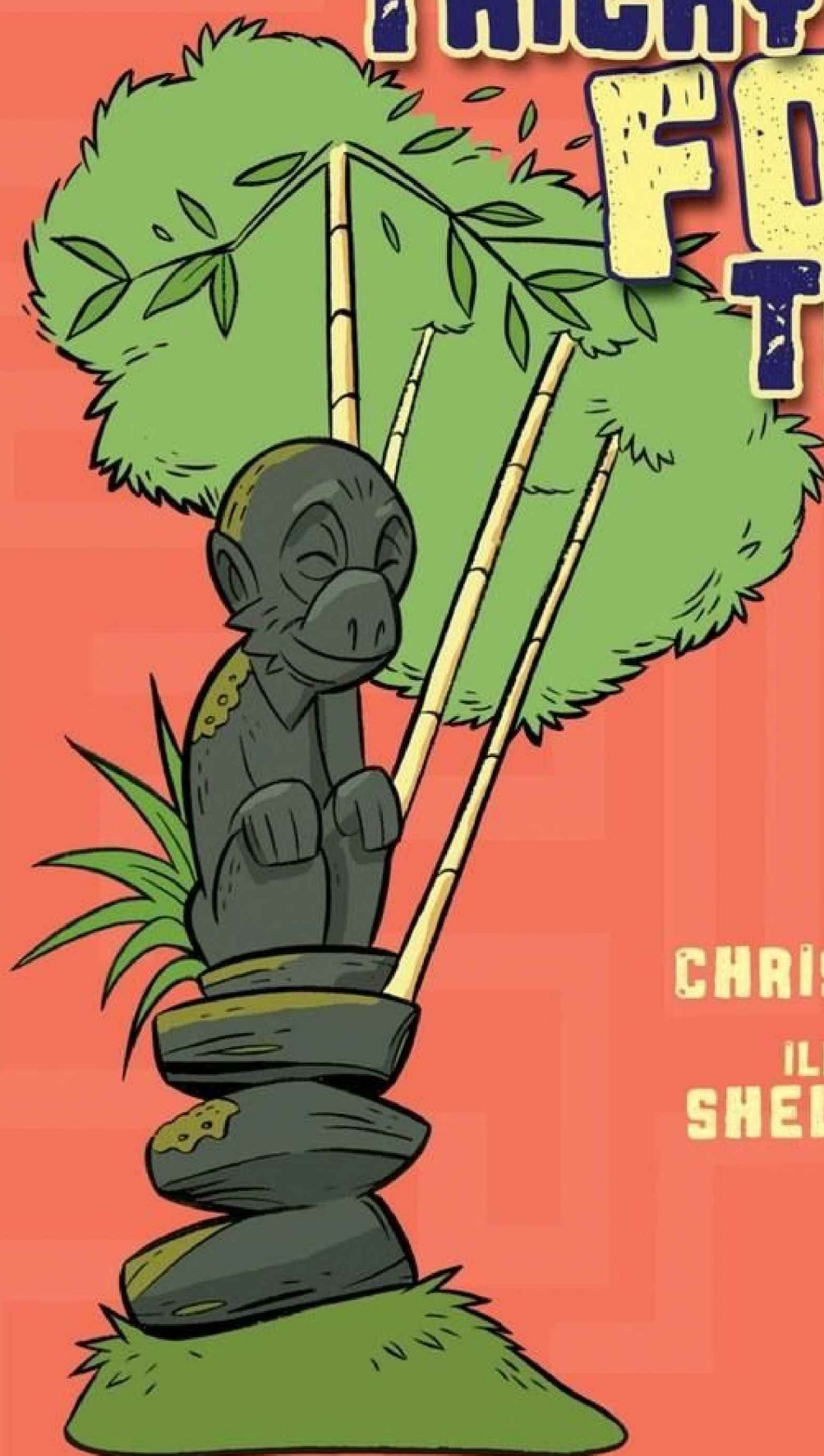
GRAPHIC
UNIVERSE™

CHRIS SCHWEIZER

ILLUSTRATED BY SHELLI PAROLINE

TRICKY #3
JOURNEYS™

TRICKY
FOX
TALES



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SHELLI PAROLINE

GRAPHIC UNIVERSE™ • MINNEAPOLIS • NEW YORK

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Are you ready for
your Tricky Journeys™?

You'll find yourself right smack
in the middle of this story's tricks,
jokes, thrills, and fun.

Each page tells what happens to Fox
and her friends. **YOU** get to decide
what happens next. Read each page
until you reach a choice. Then pick the
choice **YOU** like best.

But be careful . . . one wrong
choice could land Fox in a
mess even she can't trick
her way out of!

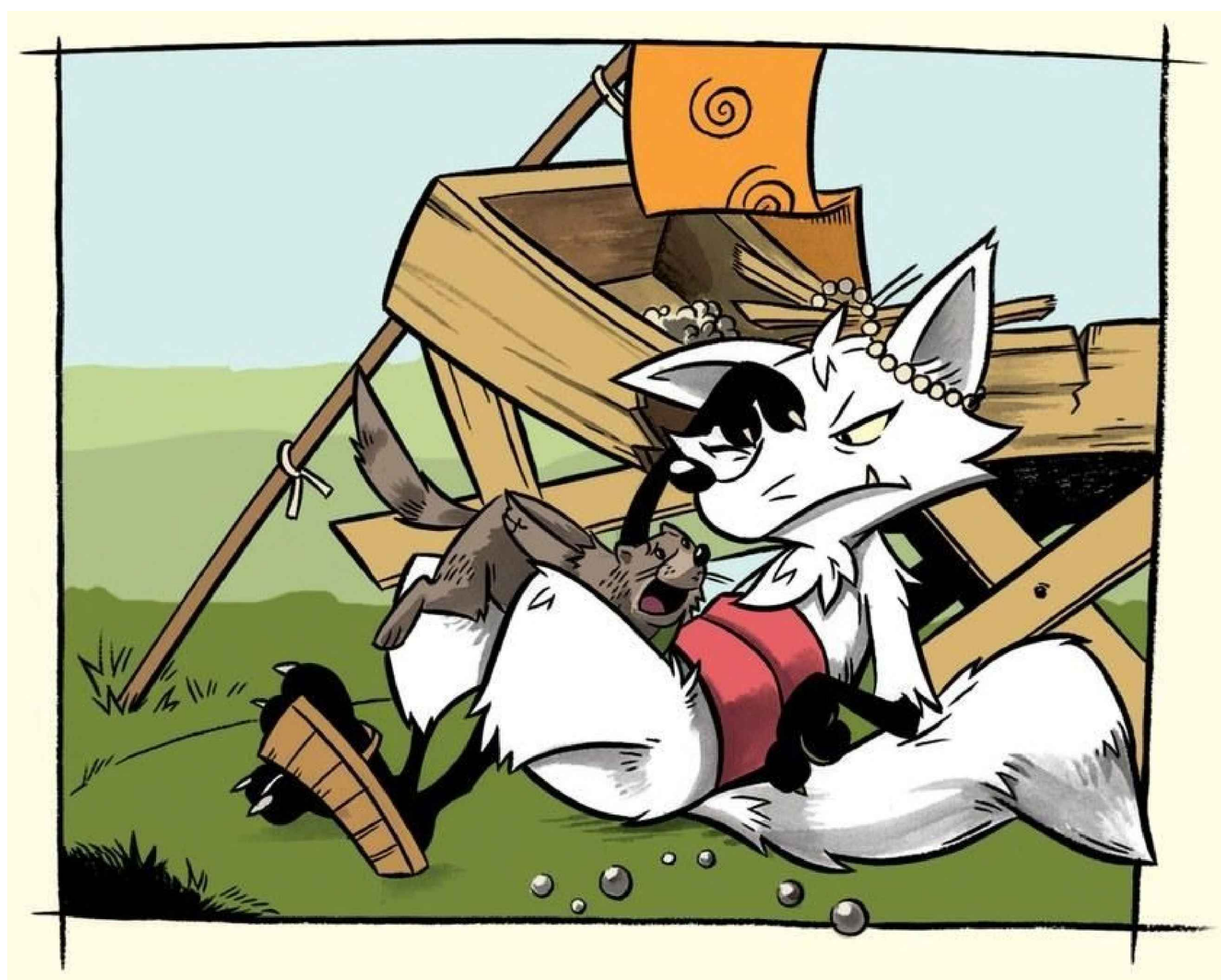


Fox loves going to the marketplace. The merchants have goods from all over the world. An old crane is selling pretty beads.

Fox is looking at the beads when a mink crashes into her! They tumble down and knock the old crane's table over. Jewelry scatters everywhere.

"Hey!" says Fox. "Why don't you watch where you're going?"

"It's not my fault," the mink says. He points. "Look!"





Fox used to play with Roxy every day. Roxy used to be so nice! Maybe there's a reason she's acting so mean. Fox could talk to her about it.

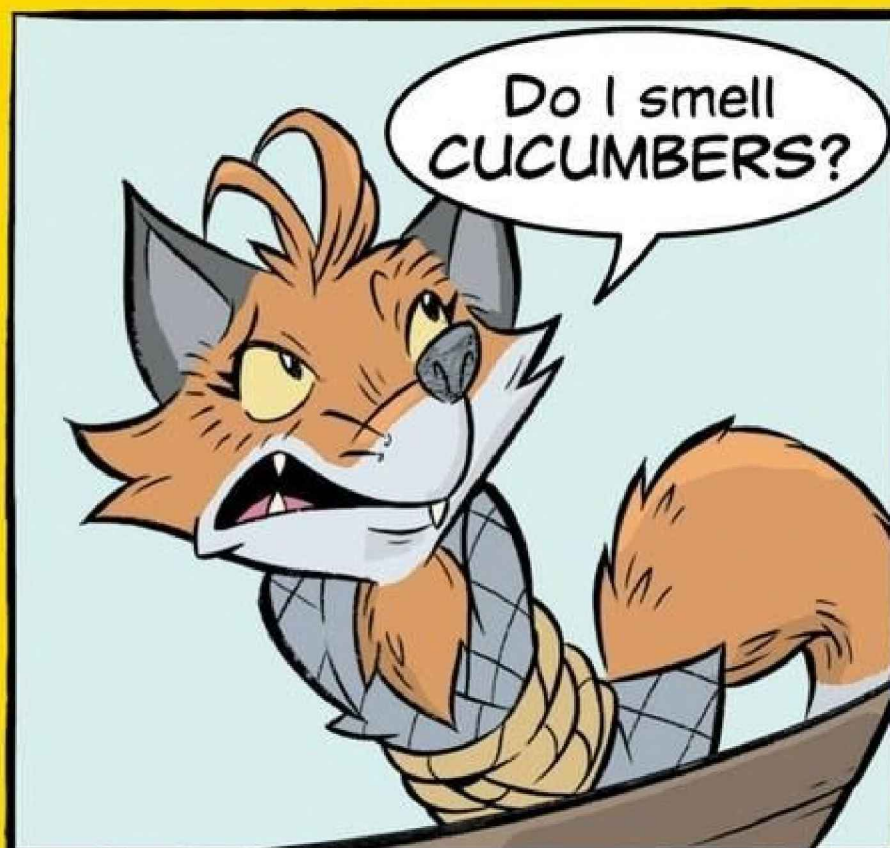
Then again, sometimes bullies need to be taught a lesson, or they'll keep being bullies. Fox could play a trick on her!

If Fox tries to talk
Roxy into being
nicer,

**TURN TO PAGE
46.**

If Fox tries to trick
Roxy,

**TURN TO PAGE
30.**



Fox is terrified. The kappa wants to eat them!

If Fox is polite to
the kappa,

TURN TO PAGE
24.

If Fox unties Roxy so that
they can fight the kappa,

TURN TO PAGE
55.

"I accept," says Fox. "I'll untie you."

"No need," says Roxy. She flexes her muscles. With a POP POP POP, the ropes snap and fall to the ground.

Fox shakes her head. "You may be strong, but I'm quick, and I use my head!"

"I'll use your head to ring the town bell!" Roxy says.

Fox hops into the air as Roxy kicks at her with her big feet. She ducks as Roxy swipes at her with her big claws. Roxy smashes one of the marketplace tables.

"If I don't move the fight away from here, there won't be any market left!" thinks Fox.



"Maybe I can get Roxy to follow me to the beach," thinks Fox. "But if we go into the woods, it will be easier for me to hide!"

If Fox leads
Roxy toward
the beach,

TURN TO PAGE
62.

If Fox leads Roxy
into the woods,

TURN TO PAGE
27.

"Here's what we'll do," Fox says to Roxy. "I'll say that I'm you, and you'll say that you're me!"

"So we won't have any disguises at all?" asks Roxy.

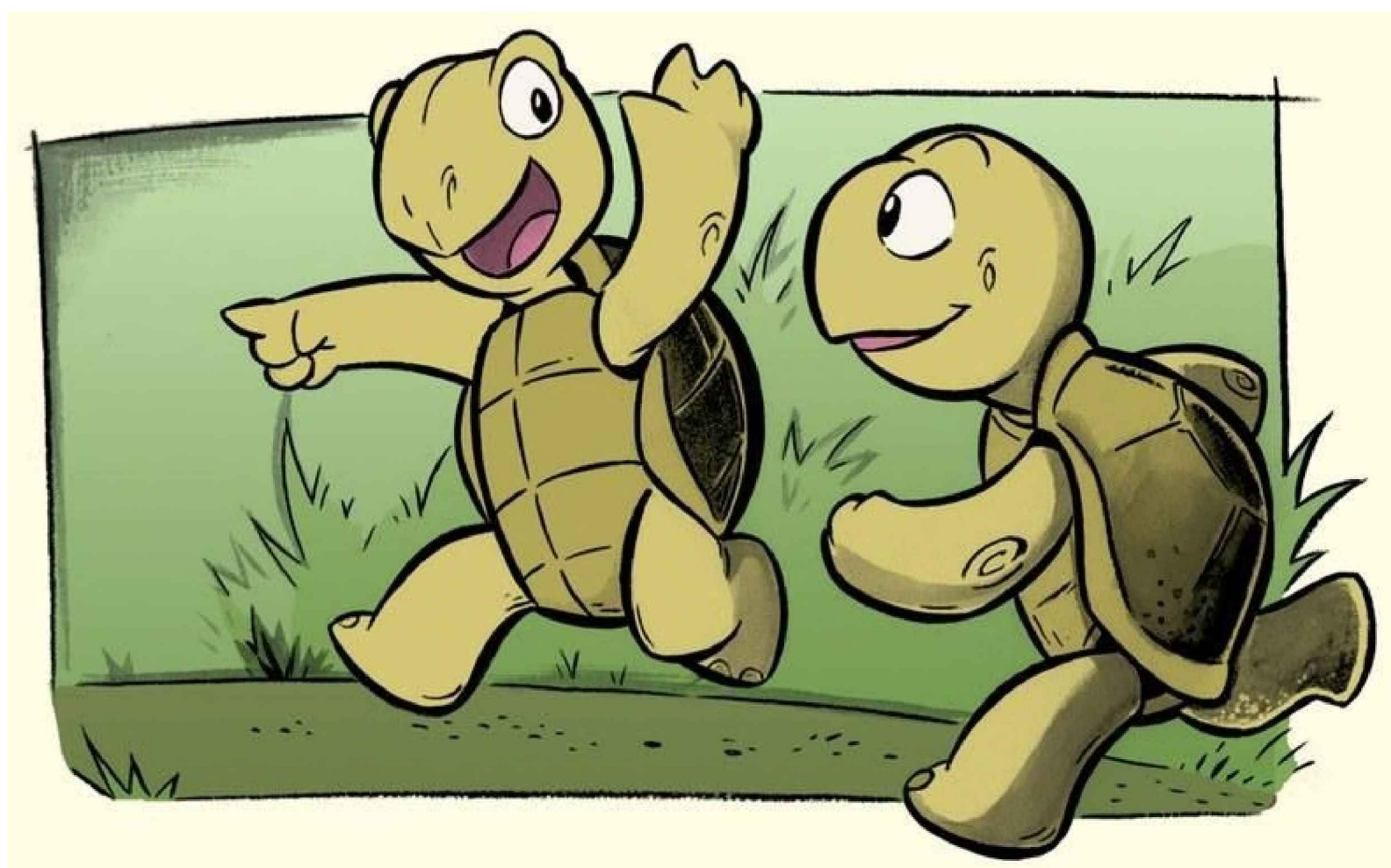
"No," says Fox. "It's a trick!"

"Oh!" says Roxy, clapping her hands. "I love a good trick!"

Suddenly two little turtles come running by. "Did you hear about Tanuki's disguise?" asks one.

"What is it?" asks the other.

"He is disguised as the emperor! He has one hundred bodyguards walking beside him!"



"That's the best disguise I've ever seen!" says Roxy.

"You haven't seen it yet," says Fox. But it sounds as if Fox has no chance of winning.

If Fox congratulates
Tanuki on winning
the contest,

**TURN TO PAGE
33.**

If Fox and Roxy try
to run away,

**TURN TO PAGE
51.**

"It's oysters that you owe him, so it's oysters you should give him," says Fox. "Let's go dig them up while the tide's out."

Many hours later, Fox and Roxy are still digging. They only have half a basket. It'll be many days before they dig up enough oysters to repay Otter. Roxy looks happy, though. She's glad to be done with bullying.

Fox is not so happy! She sighs. This may fix her family's reputation, but it's hard on her back!



THE END



Thugs, goons, and monsters fall all around Fox. There are dozens of them.

"I have to hold onto it, or every bad creature I've ever captured will get free!" cries Tanuki. "The bag was a prison. Now we have to stop these guys from causing trouble again!"



Tanuki captured all these creeps before. But maybe he's outmatched now. Fox wonders if she can catch them all herself.

If Fox gives
Tanuki the bag,

TURN TO PAGE
61.

If Fox tries to
capture the villains
herself,

TURN TO PAGE
34.

"Excuse me, sir," says Fox to the old fellow in the gold robes. "If you are as rich as you look, you need a pair of fine bodyguards!"

The old gentleman laughs. "I'm not rich!" he says. "This is a costume! I'm an actor in the opera. But if you're looking for work, we need curtain pullers to open and close the curtains during the show."



"That sounds good!" says Roxy. "I didn't like the idea of getting into fights as a bodyguard. I'm not a bully anymore."

"It's a deal," says Fox.

They all walk to the theater, dancing as the actor sings a beautiful song.

THE END



"I warned you!" says the umbrella. The other yokai hop and roll toward Fox.

"Leave my cousin alone!" Roxy says. She swats a flying lamp. A boot with hair kicks her. Fox is knocked down. Soon both Roxy and Fox are caught!



"Now," says the umbrella, "you must work for us...FOREVER! Or we'll hold you down until you waste away."

Fox and Roxy agree to be the yokai's servants. It's either that or this will be

THE END

"You can't fit a big fox like Roxy in a tiny bag like that!" says Fox.

Tanuki sticks out his tongue at Fox. He jumps into the air with the bag over his head. It puffs up like a parachute and grows bigger and bigger. Tanuki drops the bag over Roxy's head and scoops the bag up. Roxy is gone!

"How did you do that?" asks Fox.

"It's a magic bag," says Tanuki. "Now I'm coming after you!"



"Tanuki is dangerous!" thinks Fox. "I don't want to leave my cousin behind, but I don't want to be trapped in that bag, either!"

If Fox tries to
rescue her
cousin,

TURN TO PAGE
40.

If Fox tries to
escape,

TURN TO PAGE
25.



"That's a lot of oysters," says Roxy. "How will I ever be able to repay him?"

If Fox suggests
that they gather
oysters for Otter,

TURN TO PAGE
13.

If Fox suggests
that they get jobs
so they can pay
back Otter,

TURN TO PAGE
59.

"Forgive us for being so rude, Kappa," says Fox, bowing low.

"I love a polite meal!" says the kappa. It bows too, and all the water pours out of the bowl in its head. It falls down with a PLOP on the riverbank.



"What happened?" asks Fox.

"Kappas can't stay awake if there's no water in their heads!" says Roxy. "It'll sleep until rain fills its head back up."

Fox makes Roxy promise not to be a bully anymore. They follow the floating cucumbers and row home as fast as they can!

THE END



For once, Fox is at a loss for words. She opens her mouth, but only a squeak comes out. Tanuki stuffs her into the bag. Fox feels herself falling, falling, falling. It's a magic bag, and she is going to fall for a very long time.

When she does finally stop, only then will it be

THE END





Roxy struggles, but she's stuck tight. "Help me!" yells Roxy. "I'm sorry I was mean. Please let me out!" She starts to cry.

Maybe Roxy really is sorry, but maybe she's trying to trick Fox!

If Fox helps Roxy
get free,

**TURN TO PAGE
42.**

If Fox accuses Roxy of
trying to play a trick,

**TURN TO PAGE
56.**

"Out you go," says Fox, pushing Roxy to the side of the boat.

"Wait!" yells Roxy. "Untie me first, or I'll sink!"

Fox unties her cousin. As soon as Roxy is free, she grabs Fox and throws her over the treetops and into the swamp.



"So long!" Fox hears Roxy say, but she can't tell where the voice is coming from. Fox runs one way. Then she runs another. She's stuck in the swamp and will NEVER find her way out again. For her, this is

THE END

"Talking to Roxy won't do any good," Fox says to herself. "But I know what will!"

Fox goes to Otter, who runs the oyster stand. "Otter!" says Fox. "Does that big fox push you around?"

"Every day!" says Otter, tears in his eyes. "She takes all my oysters. If this keeps up, I'll lose my shop!"

"Maybe we can trick her so she won't try to take your oysters again," Fox says, reaching out her paw. "Now hand me your cape and hat!"





"I'm full," says Roxy. "But I can't just leave all these oysters, can I?" She gives a mean laugh and reaches for the basket. Only then does she realize that she's all tied up! "Hey," Roxy yells, "let me go!"

If Fox tells
Roxy to behave
herself and
sets her free,

TURN TO PAGE
22.

If Fox challenges
Roxy to a battle,

TURN TO PAGE
53.

If Fox tries to get
rid of Roxy for
good,

TURN TO PAGE
49.

Fox and Roxy go to see the emperor's parade. "That IS the best disguise I've ever seen!" exclaims Fox.

"Oh, Tanuki!" she yells. "What a wonderful disguise!"

"How dare you yell at the emperor!" yells a bodyguard, hitting Fox on the head with a piece of bamboo.



"How dare you interrupt the emperor's parade!" yells another. He also whacks Fox on the head.

Fox sees Tanuki hiding in the weeds with the two little turtles. Too late, Fox realizes that this is the REAL emperor! This time Fox is the one who was tricked!

THE END



"I'll help you," says Fox. "I have a magic bag too." She holds up Tanuki's bag. "Everyone climb inside, and I'll take you to safety!"

"Get back!" she yells to Tanuki. "I won't let you capture these creatures again!"

"She's tough!" says a monster. He dives into the bag.

"This fox will keep us safe!" says another monster. He dives into the bag too. The others follow him in.

"Thanks!" says Tanuki. "I never could have captured them again. We should team up!"

"Sounds great!" says Fox.

Fox, Roxy, and Tanuki laugh, glad that the danger has reached

THE END



"I'll leave you tied up," says Fox. "You're not getting this umbrella!" She turns around and starts to walk away. Then she hears a snap. And another snap. Roxy is breaking the ropes!

"Did you think rope could hold me?" asks Roxy. "I'm the strongest animal in the country!"

Fox tries to get away, but Roxy catches her. "My umbrella!" cries Fox as Roxy plucks it from her hands.

"You mean MY umbrella," says Roxy. She grabs Fox and throws her all the way to

THE END





"He's leaving a biscuit at the statue of the lucky monkey," replies Fox. "Legend says it will give him good luck. But I have the perfect idea for this contest!"

If Fox disguises herself as the statue of the lucky monkey,

**TURN TO PAGE
58.**

If Fox tries to confuse Tanuki,

**TURN TO PAGE
11.**

"I had no idea you were alive," says Fox. "I thought you were just a gift from my great-grandma. I'm sorry that I kept you against your will."

"I wasn't alive until just now," says the umbrella. "I am grateful to you for treating your great-grandma's gift so well. My name is Karakasa, and I can grant you one wish."

Fox and Roxy look at each other with wide grins. Usually, Fox feels as if she has only one or two choices. But this time, the possibilities are endless! Whatever she decides, for now this is ...



THE END



Tanuki starts to swing the bag over Fox...but Fox snatches it out of his hands!

"My bag!" Tanuki yells. "Give it back!"

"Not until I let out everyone you trapped!" says Fox. She turns the bag over and shakes it. First, Roxy falls out, then a duck. Then an octopus, a few monsters, and a bear.

"Should we throw this raccoon dog into his own bag?" asks Fox.



The animals all nod yes. Tanuki gulps. He knows that for him, this is

THE END

"Poor Roxy," thinks Fox. "She's big, but she's still a kid like me!"

"Please get me out!" begs Roxy, tears rolling down her cheeks.

Fox pushes the tip of her umbrella between Roxy and the tree trunk and pulls on it. With a squeak, Roxy pops free.

"Thanks," Roxy starts to say, but then she stops. The umbrella is glowing!

The umbrella shoots out of Fox's hands, opens up, and gives a big groan. Eyes appear. "Woooo-EEEE!" it screams.

"My umbrella!" yells Fox.



"I'm not anybody's *ANYTHING* anymore!" howls the umbrella. "I just turned one hundred years old. That means I get to be a *YOKAI* if I want to! And I want to! No more keeping people dry for me, no sir!" It hops up and down on its handle.

If Fox tries to catch the umbrella,

**TURN TO PAGE
18.**

If Fox tries to make friends with the umbrella,

**TURN TO PAGE
39.**



"Maybe they want to rob you themselves," says Little One-Inch.

"That's not true," says Fox, but Little One-Inch pokes her in the nose with his tiny sword. "Yow!" howls Fox.

Little One-Inch jumps into the air and pokes Roxy in the paw. "Ouch!" cries Roxy.

The two foxes take off running. Little One-Inch jumps from one to the other, jabbing them with his very tiny but very sharp little sword.



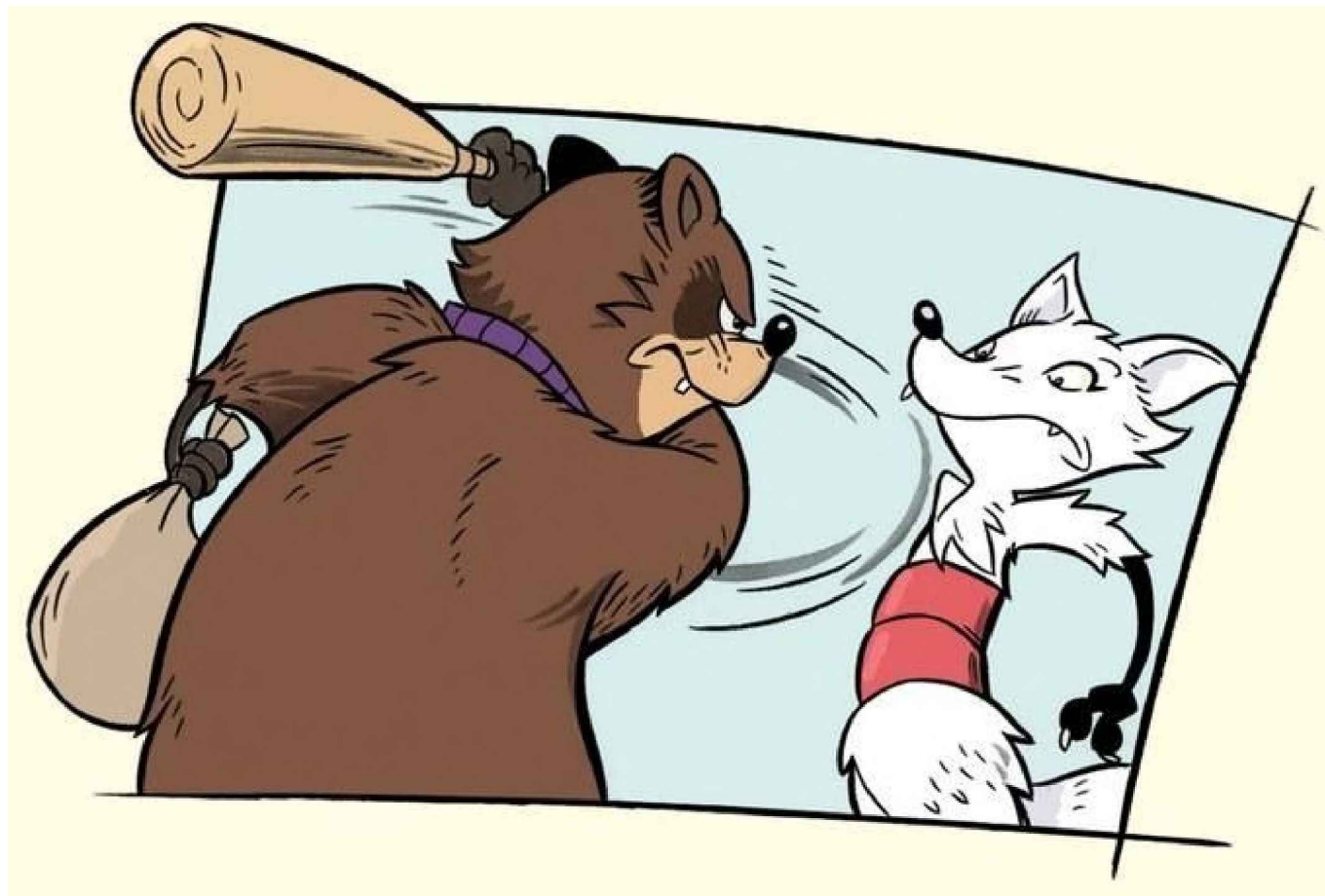
Oh, how Fox wishes this would hurry up and come to

THE END



"Easy, Tanuki," says Fox. "I have this under control. Roxy here was just leaving."

Tanuki swings his club at Fox. Fox jumps out of the way. "Leaving isn't good enough!" he says. He swings again. "You foxes think you're so clever, but you're not as clever as I am! I'm a master of disguise. I'm going to put that big bully in this bag!"



Roxy laughs. "I'll never fit in that bag!" she says.

Fox isn't sure what she should do. Tanuki's bag is much smaller than Roxy. Can Tanuki really put Roxy in it? Fox is pretty good at disguises herself, so maybe she can hurt Tanuki's pride!

If Fox lets
Tanuki try to
put Roxy into
his itty-bitty
bag,

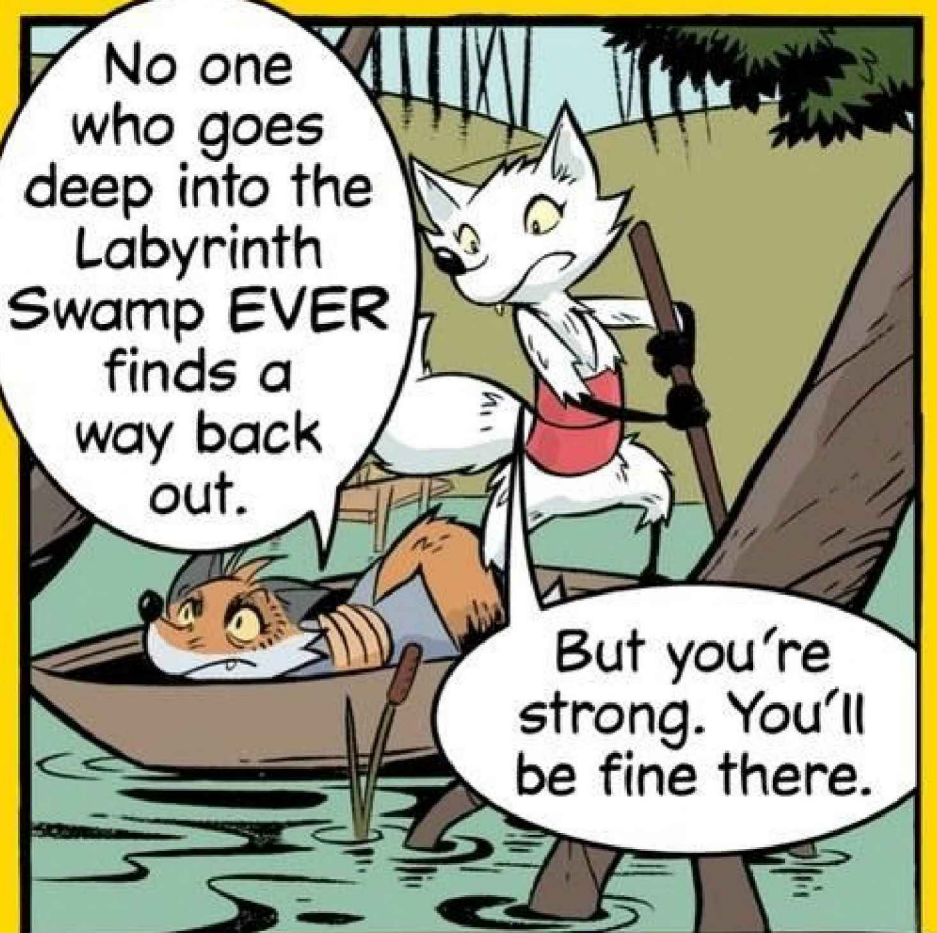
**TURN TO PAGE
20.**

If Fox tries to
take Tanuki's bag
away,

**TURN TO PAGE
14.**

If Fox challenges
Tanuki to a
disguise contest,

**TURN TO PAGE
37.**



Fox steers the boat for hours, until they get to the edge of the swamp. Fox is nervous. She doesn't want to go too far in, but she has to make sure that Roxy can't get out!

If Fox dumps
Roxy into the
water right here,

**TURN TO PAGE
29.**

If Fox takes Roxy
into the swamp and
dumps her out on
land,

**TURN TO PAGE
7.**



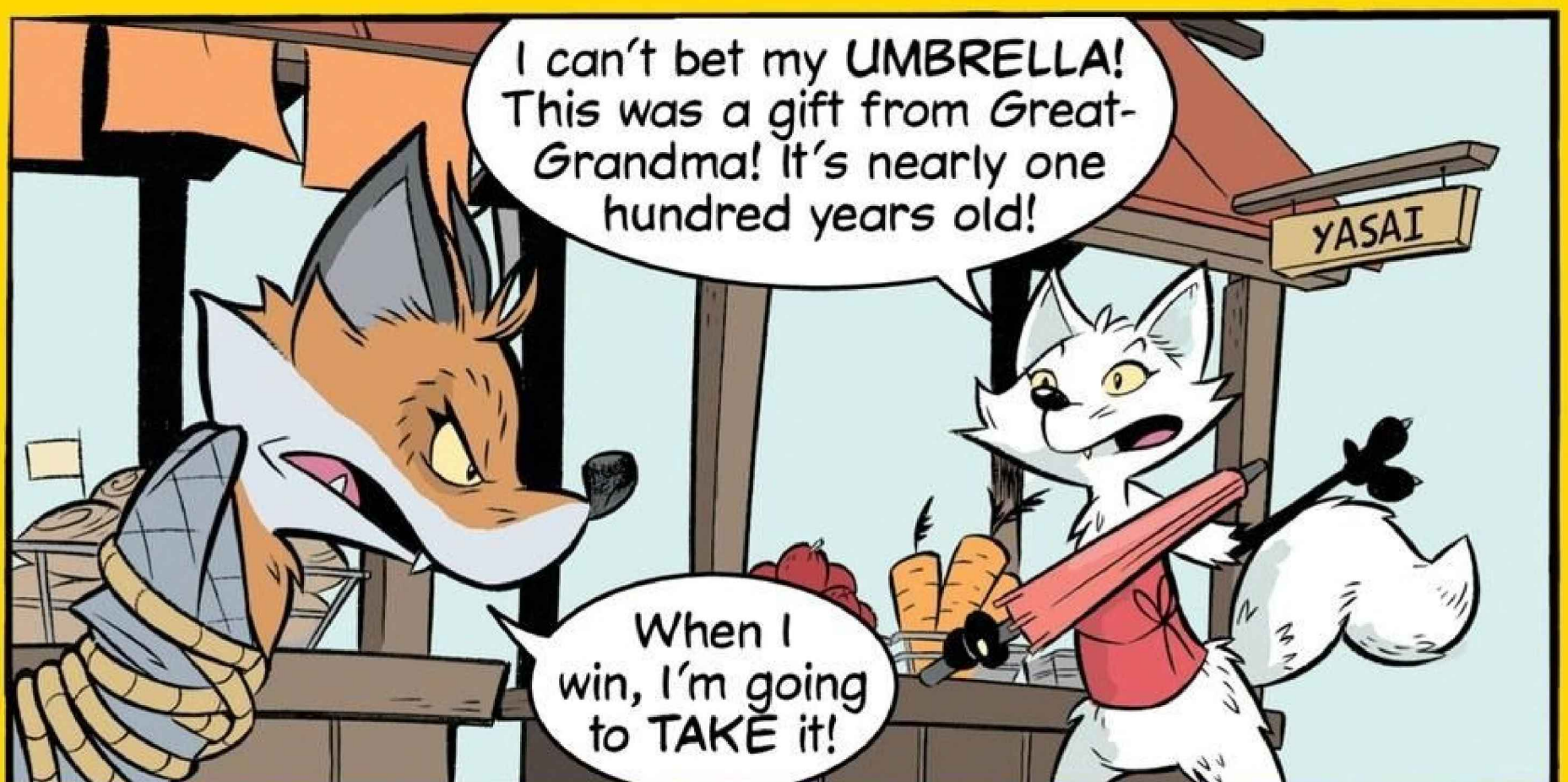
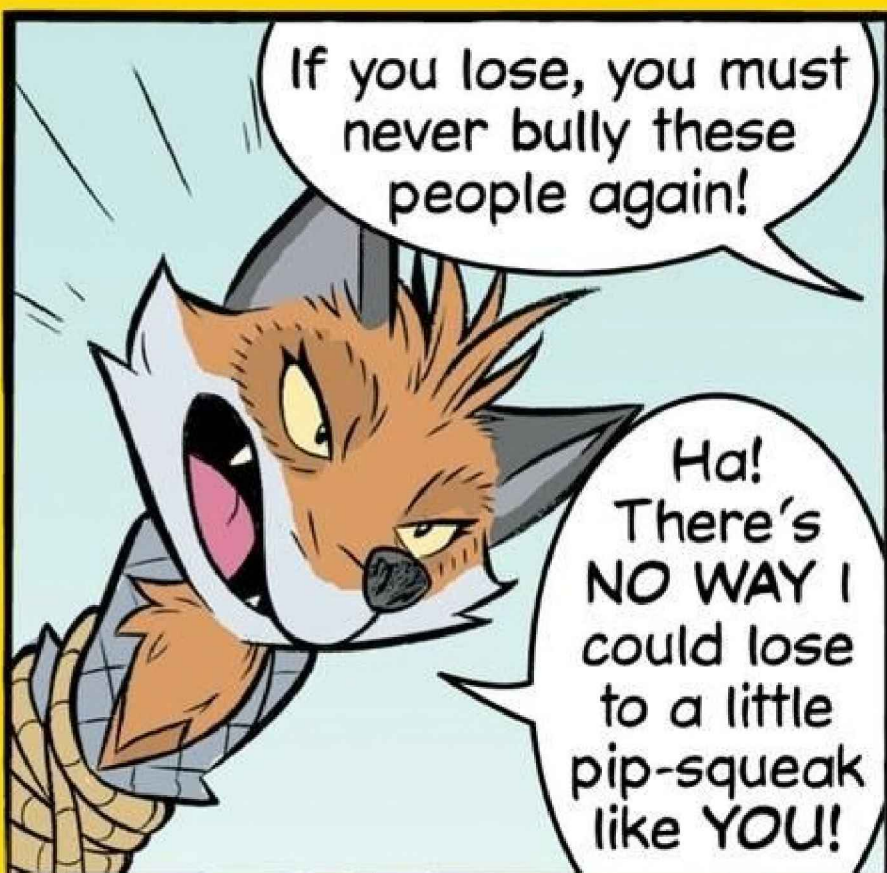
Fox tries to run, but she is grabbed by one of the bodyguards. Another grabs her tail. A dozen bodyguards grab Roxy too.

"I knew you were troublemakers, but I didn't know you were quitters!" says Tanuki. "I'm going to put you in my magic bag after all. It is a prison for troublemakers. And since you're quitters too, I know you won't try to get out!"



The bodyguards dump Fox into the bag. She yowls as she goes, but she knows that this is

THE END



Fox can't stand the idea of losing her umbrella. It's her most important possession! But if she doesn't do battle with Roxy, the big mean fox might never stop being a bully!

If Fox accepts
Roxy's bet,

TURN TO PAGE
9.

If Fox refuses to
bet her umbrella,

TURN TO PAGE
36.

Fox cuts through Roxy's ropes in a flash.
"Get the kappa, Roxy!" Fox yells.

Roxy shrugs. "I don't really know how to fight," she admits. "I just threw tiny people around and acted scary."

Fox starts to yell at her, but no noise comes out. Everything goes dark. After a moment, she understands. The kappa has already popped her into its mouth! For Fox, this is clearly

THE END





You're the toughest girl I've ever known. Getting stuck in a tree wouldn't make **YOU** cry.



If I set you free, you'll **POUND** me!

Maybe. But you **ARE** my cousin. I'll cut you a break.



I don't think I can **TRUST** you. You've turned into a **BULLY**!

Me? A bully? **NO!** I'm just getting **EVEN**!



What do you mean?

Those merchants told me to come to the market to be in a beauty pageant.



THAT was nice of them.

That's what I thought...

"The merchants gave me a silly-looking dress for the pageant, and when I put it on, they laughed at me! It hurt my feelings. I've been mean to them ever since!"

"That was a rotten thing for them to do," says Fox. She sets Roxy free. "Why don't we play a trick on them together?"

"I'd like that a lot, Fox!" says Roxy.



Roxy picks up her little cousin and gives her a big hug. "Thanks for looking out for me!"

THE END

"Give me a turnip," says Fox. "I'll carve it to look like the monkey's nose. If I roll around on the ground, I'll be covered in dust. I'll be the same color as the statue!"

Fox rolls around in the dust and stuffs leaves into her shirt. Now she looks as big as the monkey!

Soon Tanuki returns and lays a biscuit down in front of Fox. He bows, and when he looks up, the biscuit is gone!

"Did I forget to give the statue a biscuit?" he asks. He sets down another. Again, he bows, and again, the biscuit disappears!

Suddenly Fox tosses off her disguise.



Tanuki laughs. "I can't beat that disguise!" he says. "You win!"

THE END



"There's an old fellow in gold robes!" says Fox.
"There's also a young girl in the finest silk.
She's probably a princess!"

If Fox tries to
get a job with the
old man,

**TURN TO PAGE
17.**

If Fox tries to get a
job with the little girl,

**TURN TO PAGE
44.**

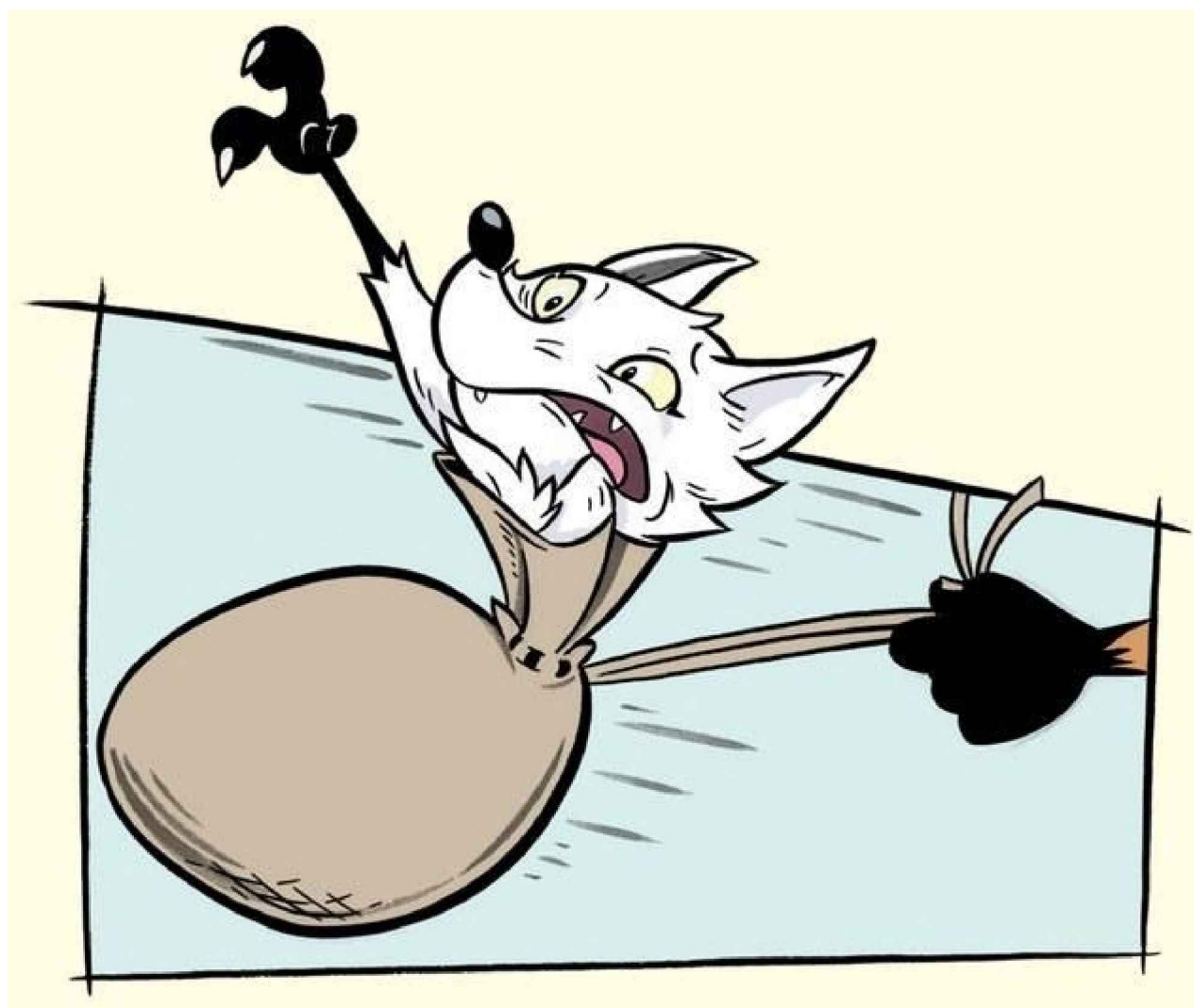
"Here," says Fox, throwing the bag to Tanuki.
"You know these guys better than I do. You should catch the biggest troublemaker first, and work your way down."

"That's exactly what I was planning to do!" says Tanuki.

Fox feels a sharp BONK on her head. Tanuki has hit her with his club. "You let all these crooks out," says Tanuki. "That means YOU'RE the biggest troublemaker of ALL!"

Tanuki throws Fox into the bag. For her, this is

THE END





Fox swims out until the water is up to her neck.

But Roxy doesn't get stuck. Roxy is so big, the water is only up to her knees, and she quickly catches Fox. Roxy lifts Fox out of the water.

"Looks like being quick and smart doesn't help that much after all!" growls Roxy. She pulls the umbrella off Fox's back. She tosses Fox out over the water.

Fox looks down and sees a shark with its mouth open, waiting for her to drop in for dinner. For Fox, this is

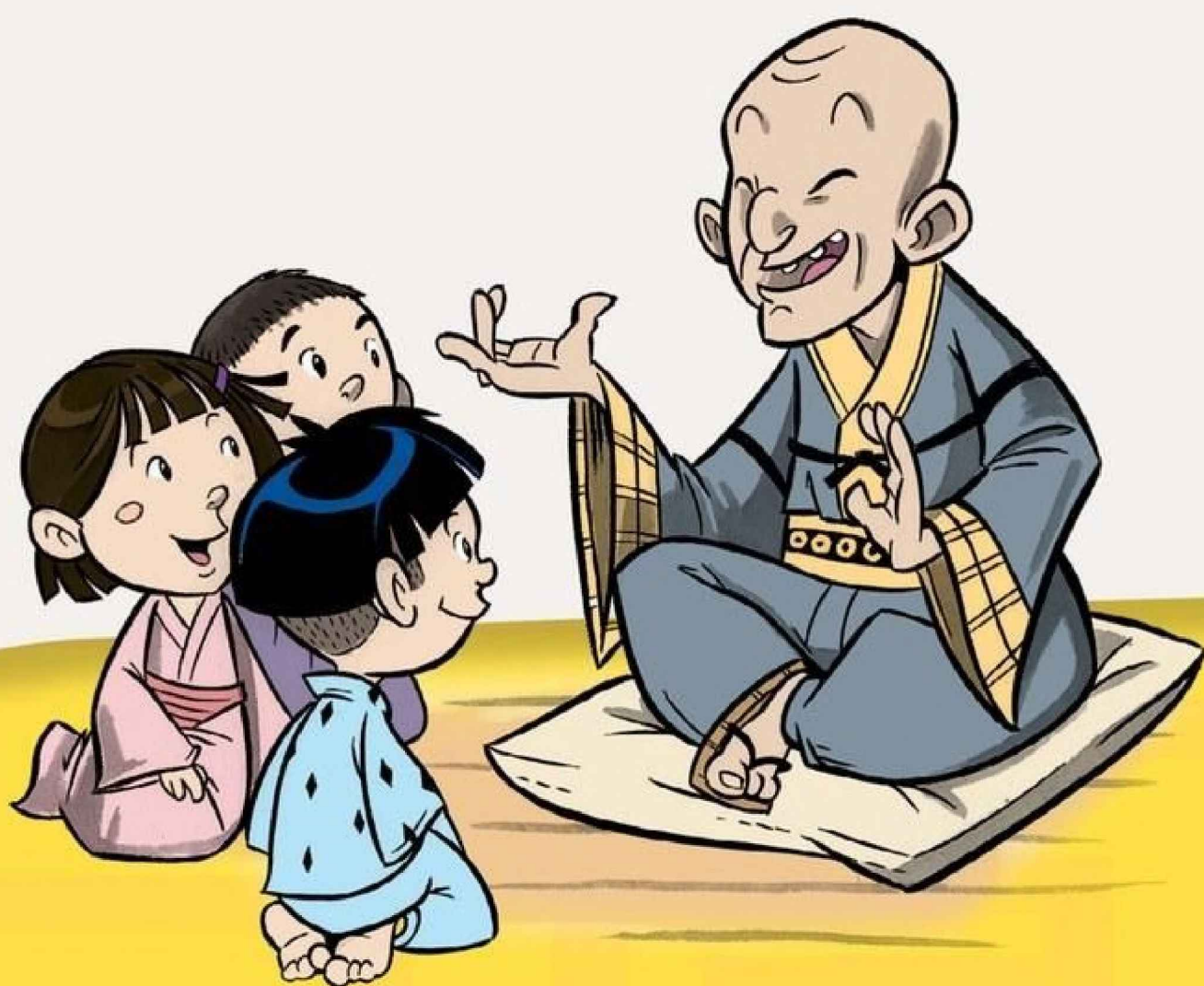
THE END



The character of **FOX** comes from the folktales of Japan. The stories are about many different foxes, which are called *kitsune*.

In these stories, the foxes are often tricksters. They usually only trick people who are behaving foolishly. But kitsune are prideful creatures. They will trick anyone who claims to be more clever than foxes.

Kitsune are not only tricksters. Sometimes they try to protect people from harm or injustice. Sometimes they even fall in love with humans. And kitsune will do anything to repay someone who was kind to them.



TRICKY JOURNEYS™

Six journeys to follow!
Which will YOU take?

FOX is enjoying a nice day at the marketplace, until her big cousin Roxy starts causing trouble. How can a little fox beat a giant bully? She'll need to plan the perfect prank!

In these Japanese Fox tales, YOU get to decide who the trickster tricks next!



TAKE ALL THE TRICKY JOURNEYS™

#1 TRICKY COYOTE TALES
#2 TRICKY RABBIT TALES
#3 TRICKY FOX TALES

#4 TRICKY RAVEN TALES
#5 TRICKY SPIDER TALES
#6 TRICKY MONKEY TALES

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